



## 2 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### So who's playing the role of she-devil now?

FAY WELDON's claim that feminism may have gone too far is only valid for that elite group of middle-aged, middle-class women to which she herself belongs (Pity the men of today, December 21).

Her research seems severely limited: she makes ambiguous reference to single mothers for whom, apparently, "the state takes the place of the husband or partner and does the providing". This is a wifely thinking of some imagined idyllic sheltered long before Britain's Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, stuck her attention in.

As a 30-year-old single mother in full-time employment, I am one of those wicked women who drove the father from the house (he admitted having an affair); changed the locks (to prevent him gaining access while I stayed with a friend to recover some semblance of sanity); gave my ex no visitation rights (he has refused all my lawyer's proposals to date); and contacted the Child Support Agency after what I am now seven months without maintenance. Men's inability to communicate doesn't need to be placated by Fay Weldon's silly little fairy-tales.

Lizette Ehrlich,  
Arthur Street, Cardiff, Wales

FAY WELDON believes that the fight for women's liberation has gone too far — if only that were true. We teach in an inner-city all-boys school, where sexism is rife. These boys are not living in a world where they lose out because women have the advantage; they live in a society that promotes sexism affecting both men and women.

Male school students from our borough, aged 14 to 16, were con-

victed of taking part in a gang rape of a 15-year-old girl last summer. The authorities dodged the issue, while the media turned these children into monsters in a sex-scene sensation. Moreover Weldon's comments about sexism in the Muslim world are as helpful as the tabloid press's stress on the fact that these boys were immigrants. Did she read about the Irish 13-year-old rape victim who had to fight to come to Britain for an abortion?

Eugene Woodward and  
Simon Blackburn,  
London

YOU are wrong, Fay. Your article is premised on erroneous assumptions. Glad Power does not triumph. How can it? It is a false concept, media-perpetuated. Your point that "the current fashion for male individualism" (when did it go out of fashion) is a "degenerate cry for help" — hopefully female help! — defies belief. Women took responsibility to effect changes in their own lives and the lives of other women. Men need to take responsibility for themselves, not look to women to make their lives better.

Lizette Ehrlich,  
Arthur Street, Cardiff, Wales

IT IS significant that it took a post-feminist author to make the point. Weekly with her all too accurate observations on the degraded nature of modern man. Other male writers — established journalists and sociologists among them — have been making pretty much the same observations for years. For their pains, they have been cold-shouldered, or, at best, labelled as out of touch with the liberal British press.

**The Guardian Weekly**

### Subscribe to Britain's best international news weekly

The Guardian Weekly e-mail service — then to postal subscribers. Register your e-mail address below and receive Guardian Weekly news, features and reviews while your newspaper is still on the press. Instructions will be sent by e-mail.

Subscription rates	6 months	1 year	2 years
United Kingdom	£27	£46	£86
Europe, U.S.A., Canada	£31	£55	£96
Rest of the world	£34	£58	£116

to: The Guardian Weekly, 181 Chancery Lane, Manchester M2 8RT, England. Please mail The Guardian Weekly for 6 months 1 year 2 years to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if not above): \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose payment of £ \_\_\_\_\_ Tick box if this is a renewal order ☐

☐ Starting cheque drawn on U.K. bank or sterling Eurocheque payable to "The Guardian Weekly"

☐ Please debit my Visa/MasterCard/American Express account no: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Card expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Click card orders may be faxed 0181 633612 from overseas +44 181 676 6362

e-mail: [subscribers@guardian.co.uk](mailto:subscribers@guardian.co.uk)

☐ Tick box if you do not wish to receive offers from carefully selected companies

### Getting the title right

JOHN SPENCER (December 21) asks whether President Mugabe or the Australian prime minister, John Howard, is right in his policies relating to land ownership by indigenous Zimbabweans and Australians. The same similarity between these two situations seems to be that in both countries indigenous people were displaced by European colonists, chiefly British.

So far as Australia is concerned, it needs to be understood that Mr Howard's Ten Point Plan will overturn the existing Native Title Act, a landmark piece of legislation that protects the Aborigines' unique interest in land and respects their cultural and spiritual beliefs. Not surprisingly, because it broke new ground, as it comes into effect some amendments are deemed necessary to make the legislation more workable.

Much deliberate misinformation has been circulated to support the Howard government's regressive amending Bill, including a suggestion that the title could be to "the land" rather than to "the people". Furthermore, pastoralists holding leases have been assured that when native title interests conflict with the operation of the pastoral lease, then the pastoral lease prevails. Similarly, while the existing Native Title Act protects the right of Aborigines to negotiate, something not possible under the amending Bill, Aborigines are not given the right of veto over mining development.

Australia, which could once have been a proper pillar in the way it was developing a truly multicultural society, now faces what could be a divisive and divisive moment in its history. Apart from refusing to make any substantial amendments to the Ten Point Plan, the government refuses to make, on behalf of the nation, an unqualified apology for past injustices suffered by indigenous Australians. Such ingratitude does nothing to further the cause of reconciliation, which so many indigenous and non-indigenous Australians regard as a national priority.

David Dyer,  
Duninyong, Victoria, Australia

Carve-up at Big Brother's table

THERE is an urgent need to follow up Larry Elliott's excellent article (Pity the men of today, December 21) with an exposure of a rather frightening development in globalisation: the drafting of the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI).

This astonishing document, amounting to "the constitution of a single global economy", has been in gestation within the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) circles for about two years. But the Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch group in the United States has been fortunate in obtaining a copy and has posted it on the Internet, explaining that

### Blair's test on Europe

Continued from page 1 human rights and for the Kurds' minority in order to start the accession process. If Greece ducks, EU would be on the spot, since it would prefer to delay the Turks' question indefinitely. An angry EU would make for a bad summit.

Almost as bad would be an Anglo-Spanish row on the sidelines as Gibraltar, particularly while Spain's demanding some guarantee that the EU's enlargement to the east will not cut its receipts from the EU budget, and gets 15.6 per cent of EU funds. Portugal, Ireland and Greece do even better, but Spain has the political muscle.

Striding trouble on these fronts would be a sound, if negligible, achievement for the British presidency. But trying to be too positive in public is a double-edged sword. Blair's team would do better to show calm competence rather than try any bold dashes of brilliance. Beyond the row, Blair's tenure will be judged on three main fronts: the interests of Europe, of Britain and of progress politics.

The UK government has to make a choice, whether to win approval by headline headlines by scoring nationalist points, or secure a deeper British interest in demonstrating the reality of the slow-motion coup d'état that we are now all involved in is to suggest to our politicians that they too will lose their jobs through redundancy if they not read, oppose, the small print of the MAI, and come up with new rules that govern fair trade at global, regional, and local level. Those rules are too late.

Those rules would be to learn about Big Brother's latest ideas for world domination can access <http://www.citizen.org>, where clicking on "invest" gives a summary of the MAI.

Brian Williams,  
Andover, France

Whites who weren't wrong

READ with interest Richard Hall's tribulation of Hastings Kamuzu Banda (Front doctor to dictator, December 7) and found it a fair summary of the peculiar career of a very peculiar man. I feel, however, that the piece does a disservice to many of the whites present in Malawi at the time of independence, where it states that "the whites in Malawi — settlers and servants alike — were all behind the little doctor".

My parents (who were not unlike when they had to flee Malawi in 1965 to avoid arrest, were the actions of his white opponents forgotten by Banda.

Before leaving for the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1970, Malawian athletes were warned by Banda not to speak to my father, a warrant at the student accommodation used as the games village. Being described as "a hyena, even whose saliva is poison" is something that my father is quite proud of, I think, but being told that he and like-minded whites were behind Banda in his seizure of power is insulting.

N. Diarmid Ross,  
Edinburgh, Scotland

### Cheers and fears of the Dalai Lama

HOLLYWOOD'S fascination with Tibet has given power to public support to its cause in the West, the Dalai Lama said, but it may prompt China to tighten its grip on the kingdom.

In an interview at a Buddhist monastery in a Tibetan refugee settlement near the north Indian town of Dehra Dun — a world from which America's fund-raising events where the dimpled, bespectacled monk in maroon robes is sought out by presidents and movie stars — the Dalai Lama said he was cheered by the growing sympathy for Tibetans.

Celebrities such as Richard Gere, Harrison Ford and Goldie Hawn have been seen at the 6 million Tibetans' national handicrafts fair in New York, and the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, was visibly taken aback by the noisy protests that awaited him on his visit to the United States in October.

Seven years in Tibet, starting Red Bull, has been a box office hit in the United States, Martin Scorsese's film Kundun was due to be released on Christmas Day, and four other films are in preparation.

It is a tremendous boost for increasing awareness about Tibet among the public, these films, said the Dalai Lama. "Either he [Mr Jiang] gets angry, so the situation may worsen, or he notices something and says, 'Oh, it might be best to find some solution'."

Seven years in Tibet is the story of the Tibetan mountaineer — with the film-makers belatedly discovered — from whom the Dalai Lama learnt his English.

Printed copies on video are avail-

### Democracy fails to boost Tanzania economy

Andrew Mairum to Dar es Salaam

ON 19th they entered the conference hall, Tanzania's president, Benjamin Mkandawire, predecessor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, and the country's first president, Julius Nyerere. Smiling proudly, the three politicians waved to the applauding crowd at the congress of the ruling party, Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), held in November in Dodoma, central Tanzania.

The scene dramatically illustrated Tanzania's success in achieving peaceful, democratic transitions of government. Very few other African countries, if any, can boast of having a current president and two former leaders together in the same room. By the measures of the continent, the country's political stability is an impressive achievement.

"We are very proud to have a united nation with no tribalism, no racism and good relations between all our ethnic groups," says the finance minister, Daniel Yona.

"We own a great deal of those

### Democracy fails to boost Tanzania economy

achievements to our first president, Julius Nyerere, and the socialist values that were encouraged during his years in power (from 1961 to 1985).

Our nation has a solid foundation of peace and harmony," says one of the most important things that Mr Nyerere did was simply to retire. It was almost unprecedented for an African head of state to step down from office voluntarily. With his ground-breaking retirement, Mr Nyerere influenced other young heads of independent states to step down from power, such as Kenneth Kaunda and Hastings Banda in the neighbouring states of Zambia and Malawi.

Mr Nyerere paved the way for the peaceful transition to the presidency of his chosen successor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi. Mr Mwinyi led Tanzania to multi-party democracy and agreed to limit his time in office to two five-year terms, ending in 1995.

Unfortunately, Mr Mwinyi's second term was marked by a rise in corruption. Mr Mkandawire

### Democracy fails to boost Tanzania economy

won the 1995 multi-party elections on an anti-corruption and free enterprise ticket.

Sadly, the country's political success has not been matched economically. Nyerere's legacy was a mixed one, for although his leadership created a unified nation, his socialism ground down the economy to the point of collapse.

"The downside of 30 years of socialism is not hard to see," says Mr Yona. "The system did not encourage private initiatives; in fact, it discouraged it. It took us many years of work to recover."

Tanzania's ranking as the world's third-poorest country is glaringly evident from the state of the crumbling and inadequate road network, the regular power failures and the country's dilapidated buildings and factories.

But its economic potential is much brighter than it has been in 30 years, thanks to a new spirit of market economics in the government.

Tanzania is a sprawling country covering 945,000 square kilometres (larger than France and Germany combined) with a rela-

### Democracy fails to boost Tanzania economy

tively small population of 30 million people. Gross national product per capita is a lowly \$118 per year.

The country is pulling itself out of a dismal period of economic stagnation, with average annual growth of just 1 per cent from 1986-95. The poor economy has brought about a new spirit of market economics in the government.

Tanzania has no shortage of fertile land, 80 per cent of the country is still uncultivated. The government's new policies have

parts of Tanzania are going hungry," says Festus Cusack, the international secretary of the CCM. "The poor road system is the number one reason why agriculture has been slow to respond to the positive market signals."

He says that although Tanzania is the only sub-Saharan African country to achieve such social and political stability, the "challenge is to use the stability as a springboard for economic growth."

### Democracy fails to boost Tanzania economy

he said. Of his friends in Hollywood? "I think generally they are kind people," he replied.

It is similarly kindly disposed to Heinrich Harrer, the Austrian mountaineer and SS member who is played by Brad Pitt in Seven Years in Tibet.

The Dalai Lama, aged 62, was a teenager when Mr Harrer arrived at the Potala palace in Lhasa after the second world war to fix a film projector, a gift from Britain.

His own awareness of the war in the seclusion of the palace was sketchy. "At that time I got the impression that there were Germany, Italy and Japan on one side, and on the other side, the United States, the whole of western Europe and the Soviet Union. I got the impression of three small nations bullied by many big nations, so I had some sympathy for Germany."

He has kept in touch with Mr Harrer. At a meeting in Italy last year they discussed the Nazi assassinations. "I told him a fact is a fact, that the truth has to be accepted," the Dalai Lama said. "At that time when Harrer joined the SS, probably it was through the enthusiasm of the young people. It was a sort of patriotism."

Such misguided patriotism has also surfaced in the elite community of late, where religious extremism has combined with frustration at the failure to transcend a dialogue with Tibetans.

Just year three monks among the Dalai Lama's closest associates were murdered in Dharamsala.

"Every day the number of fatalities is growing," said one of the many security guards who accompany the Dalai Lama on his journeys around India.

Critics of the Dalai Lama say that although he is healthy, time is running out. He may prefer to stay in Tibet, but he is old and the older generation with its roots in the mountain kingdom passes on.

The Dalai Lama is unrepentant.

"Or there is an airplane crash or something happens, then of course there is an immense setback, there is no doubt," he said.

"But as a nation we will survive."

### Democracy fails to boost Tanzania economy

the rounds of Dharamsala, the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile in the Indian Himalayas, and the Dalai Lama is waiting to see the film during an upcoming visit to the US.

The Tibetan god-king gave script approval to Scorsese's film, Kundun. This film, which has caused the most difficulty to Beijing so far, tells the story of his life before his flight to India in 1959.

The Dalai Lama hopes the public pressure produced by such films, as well as the appointment of Gregory Craig in October as Washington's co-ordinator on Tibet, may break a decade of deadlock with Beijing.

"Since direct communication with the Chinese government is no longer there, someone like him or any other who can help to dispel or reduce suspicion is needed," the Dalai Lama said.

On the day of meeting, the Tibetan leader was to deliver a teaching at the Ngorkhang monastery at Manduwa, a remote outpost among the settlements housing the 100,000 Tibetan exiles in India.

To the chanting of symbols and the blowing of horns and conch shells, his gold Mercedes rolled between monks and fluttering coloured flags.

A beaming Dalai Lama sprang out of the front seat and walked up a red hand-painted cloth to the

monastery.

He took his seat beneath the richly painted ceiling of the monastery, and the chanting of ancient scriptures began. Women in saffron robes of rich brocade clothed in gold, and men in saffron robes, poured saffron tea.

Religious and cultural safeguards are crucial to any eventual settlement in Tibet, the Dalai Lama believes. Although it disappointed the more radical Tibetans when he dropped the demand for outright independence from Beijing nearly a

decade ago, he argues that a complete break from China would do Tibet no good.

"Tibet is a landlocked country, not a big area with a big population, but quite rich in natural resources but with difficult communications and very, very backward."

"To achieve development or a new role is very important. As far as material development is concerned, we might get greater benefit, if provided there are safeguards

for our own religious and spiritual traditions."

This is the more familiar role of the spiritual leader of a deeply religious people, and such ceremonies are evidence of Tibetans' success in preserving their culture during more than 40 years in an alien land.

But the Dalai Lama does not distinguish between such duties and his public mission to win international support for Tibet.

"To me, there is no difference whether president, beggar or king,"

he said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.

He said.



South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hearing crimes committed under apartheid. Can it help heal the country's divisions, asks **Andrew O'Hagan**

[illegible]

**hey committed  
ross illegalities. But  
they tell the truth  
ey will walk away'**

[illegible]

**'If you don't have  
some accepted  
history you will not  
gel as a community'**

Perhaps she is right. Memory was never allowed to replenish its future in South Africa, never allowed to take its place in the national identity, to make old wrongs less easily repeated. "Apartheid divided us so successfully," she added, "that practically no South African can claim memories other than those forged in isolated villages. People lived out their lives unaware that horrific actions . . . were taking place in the buildings next to them. Every one of us has half-memories."

As people know, history is most often written by the victors, and I wondered if the process of truth-seeking would not become an exercise in blaming. Would it be possible to avoid the situation of vilification of aminey . . . the security forces would not have allowed the transition to happen in the way that it did otherwise. But we wanted full disclosure, in public."

I asked him about the business of



How would he feel about perpetrating this process and not being the truth? "Arc you angry?" he asked. "Which one of us is ever saying sorry?" The answer was no. "The process is one-sided" from people who are already beleaguered, said the Africans. But the English speakers tend to have an idea of the process. "The process is one-sided" from people who are already beleaguered, said the Africans. But the English speakers tend to have an idea of the process. "The process is one-sided" from people who are already beleaguered, said the Africans. But the English speakers tend to have an idea of the process.

**I know what happened**

**to my husband?**

after that I looked for my husband But I never did find him."

Mrs Haashe had been part of the struggle for freedom in South Africa. When her husband was gone she felt alone, and thought she might never know all that had happened there. The hearing into the TRC has brought Mrs Haashe something to end her fear.

"I am proud of my husband," she said. "He had the good heart, as he would tell you himself. You are killing our people, and we belong to this South Africa." I said to myself, well, they killed him, but what I wanted was peace in our country. For how many years? It seemed like for nothing. This hearing has done a lot for me; now I can look and see the people, and I know what happened. My husband: it has come out. And it is better that way. I don't want to hear about his death again. I wish that these people did not suffer."

Mrs Haashe will someday have little money from the TRC. It is never stated in full that this has no effect on her life.

Yet she looks forward to the day when she will be able to go back to business on Robben Island, "she said and he taught me". She does not think she will once again to own vegetable stall."

هذا من اجل

# Clinton misses out as good times roll

Martin Kettle

IF THE world will probably remember 1997 for the birth of a cloned sheep in Scotland and for the death of an iconic prince in Paris, it was also the year in which Hong Kong, one of world capitalism's greatest powerhouses, was peacefully transferred to the People's Republic of China. It was an unwelcome intrusion of mortality for the confident new economic order of the 1990s, and was an event which sent reverberations around a global economy in which political leaders on every continent are still struggling to find a means of imposing some meaning and upholding their authority.

Ironically, few leaders had more difficulty in this endeavour than President Bill Clinton, just as no nation has better embodied both the economic confidence and the political uncertainties of the mid-1990s than the acknowledged sole superpower of the post-cold war era, the United States.

On the one hand, the US economy continued to grow and prosper throughout 1997 as almost never before. The US's gross domestic product rose by 2.5 per cent, with production increasing every month throughout the year. Unemployment falling to its lowest rate for 25 years, and export porate profits surging to new records. The stock market rose with the Dow Jones index reaching 7,000 and 8,000 for the first time, before falling back (though only for a while) in the wake of the Asian economic crisis.

In the 1990s, such an inflationary expansion and corporate profitability were achieved on the backs of millions of unemployed and through tax redistribution to the rich. But in 1997 it seemed as though full employment and profitability were expanding without causing inflation. Inflation, which had been 3 per cent in 1996, looked set to repeat that result by the end of 1997, and US interest rates remained historically fairly low. The good times just kept on rolling.

As a result, one problem which had beset every preceding US administration for the past three decades seemed to be suddenly more soluble. Tax revenues from the booming economy flowed with such force into Treasury vaults that the federal budget deficit fell to \$25 billion for the year, the lowest since 1974. Faced with a much smaller deficit, Clinton and Congress were able to agree on a balanced budget strategy which they agreed would eliminate the deficit altogether by 2002.

On the other hand, American politicians did not enjoy the largely untroubled progress of the US economy. Clinton began his second term in the White House with a call at his second inaugural, for an end to "bickering and extreme partisanship". But this was wishful thinking. Having been re-elected on the strength of the economic and employment boom (though with only 49 per cent of the votes cast), the first second-term Democratic presi-

dent since Franklin Roosevelt had a miserable year.

Commentators tend to blame Clinton himself for this falling. Yet the blame, if that is the right word, lies not with him but with the electorate, who had once again voted for a "cobaltation" between a Democratic president and a Republican Congress which neither party wanted. The new Congress elected in November 1996 has clear Republican majorities in both Houses, and a handful of "officer" elections in November 1997 suggested that this is how the voters want it to stay. The November 1998 midterm elections — in which the whole House of Representatives and just over a third of the Senate will be up for election — are unlikely to change this defining condition of the Clinton presidency.

Clinton's second-term administration contained several important changes from the 1992 team. In particular, the promotion of Madeleine Albright to be the first female Secretary of State in US history brought a popular figure to the heart of American foreign policy. Albright's actual achievements, on the other hand, were harder to discern. The US made little progress in the Middle East peace process, and Albright was criticised for standing aside in relations between Israel and the Palestinians deteriorated anew.

In November, another fudged Clinton had to struggle to get his scandals. His first-choice director, Tony Lake, had to withdraw, complaining that the Republicans made him feel like a "dancing bear" in Hill confrontation. The president failed to get his choice of ambassador to Mexico post Senator Jesse Helms. The year ended with a stand-off over Clinton's attempt to appoint Bill Lann Lee, to head the Department of Justice's civil rights division.

The real silver lining for Clinton was that the Republicans took to arguing that Clinton's own policies rather than just trying to impeach the president. In particular, the lustre which had attended to House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich since 1994 was dulled when he became the first holder of that office to be reprimanded for an ethics violation of bringing \$300,000 on a charge of bringing directly upon the House by using tax-exempt funds for party debts. Gingrich was only partly re-elected Speaker in January and has become a bit of a flake, then damaged good.

This personal humiliation for Gingrich reflected a deeper crisis in the Republican party which has not yet been solved. The party is enjoying a remarkable electoral success, but it remains an unstable coalition between a conservative majority and a liberal minority. The conservatives have the upper hand ideologically, but the liberals remain disorganised and electorally indispensable. Though strong enough in numbers



to defeat the Democrats (who have divisions of their own), the Republicans cannot agree on an agenda that is not so divisive as to be self-defeating. The party that chose Bob Dole even though it did not believe in him shows no sign of getting it right next time.

Nevertheless the weight of Republican numbers ensured that Clinton had to struggle to get his legislative proposals through a hostile Congress, and was forced to compromise and withhold on liberal legislation. Education reform and a fresh health programme were largely abandoned. Big issues like global warming and the tobacco health warnings had to be fudged through deals.

In one notable case — Clinton's attempt to reinvent himself with "fast-track" authority to make trade deals — the Republicans won increasingly spend the Democrats into debt a local level. What mattered was the Clinton appeared to be selling easier to his time. His White House has rooms and even some said it failed to give Clinton in Arlington Cemetery in order to stay in office.

Clinton ended the year by telling a press conference that it had been a "brilliant year" that he had a full agenda of "vital issues". Not many of the Washington political class saw it that way, and beyond the capital, few still. Clinton's presidency remained benign and popularly tolerated within the limits imposed by Republican intransigence, but it soon seemed to have little purpose beyond self-perpetuation and the election of Gore in three years' time. The reality is that the key moment of the second term seems likely to be the almost undeniably demeaning sexual harassment hearing against him brought by Paula Jones, which is set to begin in Little Rock in May.

With the economy booming and domestic politics bogged down by technicalities and bickering, America got on with enjoying itself in 1997. The gap had narrowed to 6.7 years for men, and 4.7 for women. The gap between rich and poor has widened too. In the mid-1980s the gap had been 10 years, but by 1997 it had widened to 16 years for men and 15 years for women. A decade later, these differences are expected to be 20 years for men and 16 years for women.

The findings were published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. Dr. Raleigh and Victor King showed that the 1980s people in Manchester have had the shortest life spans in England.

Men and women from the city had average life spans in the 1990s of 69.9 and 74.7 years. This compared with national average life spans of 74.1 and 78.5. In contrast, the most disadvantaged communities in the city had average life spans of 61.1 years.

Dr. Youle, director of HIV clinical research at the Royal Free Hospital in London, said he was prepared to take the risk of becoming HIV positive and developing AIDS.

"If you go through life worrying about what relative risks are, you end up doing nothing," he said. "You make judgments on what values you and what bothers you and what needs to be done. This is just something I think is worth doing."

The vaccine trials are being led by Charles Farthing, a New Zealander who started the largest AIDS clinic in the UK at St Stephen's Hos-

pital in London in the early 1980s, when the epidemic took hold. Dr. Farthing will also be injecting himself with the weakened but live strain of the HIV virus.

Dr. Youle worked with Dr. Farthing at St Stephen's, now the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and still holds a clinical post there.

CLINTON WEEKLY  
January 4 1998

## Doctor to be HIV guinea pig in vaccine quest

Sarah Bosley

Dr. Youle, director of HIV clinical research at the Royal Free Hospital in London, said he was prepared to take the risk of becoming HIV positive and developing AIDS.

"If you go through life worrying about what relative risks are, you end up doing nothing," he said. "You make judgments on what values you and what bothers you and what needs to be done. This is just something I think is worth doing."

The vaccine trials are being led by Charles Farthing, a New Zealander who started the largest AIDS clinic in the UK at St Stephen's Hos-

pital in London in the early 1980s, when the epidemic took hold. Dr. Farthing will also be injecting himself with the weakened but live strain of the HIV virus.

Dr. Youle worked with Dr. Farthing at St Stephen's, now the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and still holds a clinical post there.

He does not expect miracles from the vaccine, developed by Donald Derossier of Harvard University.

"I believe the initial vaccine will get us to a point where we will not be completely effective," he said. "You will reduce your chances of getting HIV. But this would make a significant difference to countries that do not have the resources to treat."

Dr. Youle, aged 37, took part in a vaccine trial in 1991. This was not the live HIV virus but an artificially created small part of it, called p17.

produced by an American company with some British financial backing. It was shelved in the late 1990s because of its lack of efficacy, he said. "It did not cause any illness but did not dramatically improve the likelihood of resistance."

The new vaccine is very different. "This is a virus that has had its detached from it. Theoretically it shouldn't be as nasty as the real thing, but viruses chop and change. The worry is that we would get recombination and therefore a nastier form of the virus."

Some risks worry Dr. Youle more than others. While he accepts that he may get killed driving around a motorway, he will not travel in the front carriage of a train.

"I am a gay man, so I have a higher risk of getting HIV in this country compared with the general population. This is not true in some other countries."

The proposed trial had already served a useful purpose in focusing attention on the need for a vaccine. The way forward, he believed, was "education hand in hand with a vaccine. We do not want people to believe the vaccine is something that will mean they can throw their condoms away."

Progress in combating HIV had been greater than in finding cures for some other potentially fatal medical conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, he said, because the fear of it had led to a big investment in drugs.

"One advantage of an infectious disease is that people are afraid of it. And so is he. 'Half of my friends have died in my arms. I'm nothing if not realistic about what it can do to you.'"

Dr. Youle is fully aware of the risks

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.



Dr. Youle: fully aware of the risks

He is supported in his decision by his partner and has no dependants. The next hurdle for the trial, which has attracted at least 50 American scientists as volunteers, is to get the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration. If that is forthcoming, Dr. Youle expects to be vaccinated within 12 months.

## Norway hit by seaborne nuclear waste

Nail Brown

NORWAY has been hit by a tidal wave of nuclear waste reaching its shores in the last year as a result of discharges from the Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria, and is to own drinks for the closure of the plant responsible.

The discovery that the nation's nuclear technology (1400 tonnes) was being used to dispose of the wastes of Sellafield was an embarrassing time for the government, which is considering an application for new discharge licences from the Sellafield plant.

In September last year Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, at a meeting of ministers from 15 countries including Norway, pledged that the UK would end its sea discharges of nuclear waste and chemicals as soon as possible. It was to finally remove from Britain the tag of "the dirty man of Europe".

Thirteen of the countries present at the meeting of the Oslo/Paris Commission, which controls pollution in the North Sea, had expressed particular concern about T-99 because it accumulates in shellfish. Lobsters off Sellafield were caught in the summer by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) and found to be 32 times over the European Union safe limit for human consumption.

Per Strand, a member of the Norwegian Radiation Protection Board, said that after that Commission meeting in Brussels Norway had begun tests to see whether T-99 was reaching Norway. The board has since found an eightfold increase.

Mr Strand acknowledged that the levels of radioactivity were not dangerous to humans, but they could accumulate in shellfish.

Another meeting of the commission is due later this month. The Norwegian environment ministry said it would ask a full report from the board before deciding how to frame its protest.

The cause of the problem is a plant opened in 1994 to process stored nuclear waste accumulated over many years. T-99 was not thought to be a problem at the time, and is routinely discharged to the sea. MAFF monitors a full range of levels in shellfish, more than double every year since then.

## North-South poverty gap widens

DIFFERENCES in life expectancy are widening dramatically in Britain between the North and the South, the rich and the poor, a new study has shown.

A study by the Centre for Health Economics in Cambridge, in the early 1990s can expect to live at least seven years longer than his counterpart in Manchester, according to an analysis of mortality figures in England from 1984-94.

From narrowing the health inequality gap between the haves and have-nots, the situation has worsened in time. Life expectancy in England varied by an average of 6.6 years for men and 4.7 years for women, and the gap has widened since 1986.

"Health inequalities are also widening between rich and poor countries and between the rich and poor within countries," said Veeva Sani Ralegh, one of the researchers from the National Institute of Epidemiology, at the University of Surrey, Guildford.

"It is important to recognise that poor health isn't just a question of getting a disease. It's a cumulative lifetime of disadvantage."

The growing regional difference in life expectancy areas was 5.2 years for men and 4.3 for women. By 1994 the gap had widened to 6.7 years for men, and 4.7 for women.

The gap between rich and poor has widened too. In the mid-1980s the gap had been 10 years, but by 1997 it had widened to 16 years for men and 15 years for women. A decade later, these differences are expected to be 20 years for men and 16 years for women.



Picture of enjoyment... An audience of children is captivated by the three-dimensional effects at one of London's West End. The 26 million Trocadero cinema has a library of 150 action films which the audience watch wearing special headsets

## Dome's deficit may fall to Lottery

Dan Gialler

THE Millennium Dome in Greenwich could cost the National Lottery millions of pounds more than budgeted, a report by a committee of MPs has revealed.

With 2450 million of lottery money already committed to the project, the report expresses alarm that the lottery will be used as a fallback plan for the event's organisers not at their sufficient sponsorship or meet their target of 12 million visitors during the year-long celebration.

Organisers hope to raise £150 million through sponsorship and £150 million from ticket sales and marketing.

The report from the culture, media and sport committee under Gerald Kaufman praised the dome as "a magnificent in conception and likely to be breathtaking in execution". It expressed doubts about several aspects, however, including transport to the Greenwich site, the lack of sponsors, the content and the contingency plan.

The dome was initially granted £200 million of lottery money by the Millennium Commission. Last June that figure was increased to £450 million. With £150 million expected from sponsors, and £150 million from ticket revenue and other income, the total cost of the project will be at least £750 million.

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio and sole shareholder of the operating company, the New Millennium Experience Company. He said, "Should... commitments... inevitably increase we will take further steps to ensure... through the lottery... that the Millennium Commission is able to meet them."

The dome was initially granted £200 million of lottery money by the Millennium Commission. Last June that figure was increased to £450 million. With £150 million expected from sponsors, and £150 million from ticket revenue and other income, the total cost of the project will be at least £750 million.

The report also draws attention to a parliamentary answer given by

## The quotable quotes of 1997

ALAN CLARK and Tony Blair's candid chat about top of the 100 most memorable quotes of 1997, writes John Seard.

A list compiled by Oxford University Dictionaries features Mr Blair's former English teacher, Eric Anderson, for one of the most generous descriptions of the year. Of the man who said: "I am never flamboyant on purpose. I am what I am."

Elizabeth Knowles, who compiled the list, said: "It was a particularly good gothic quote."

Mr Blair has three entries, including his words on splitting

power. "We are not the masters. The people are the masters."

The Queen scores three times — including "please don't be too effusive" to Mr Blair at her wedding anniversary.

Novelist Martin Amis gets in with his description of his mid-life crisis: "You are living in a land you no longer recognise. You don't know the language."

The oldest entrant, in her 80s, is Britain's last living survivor of the Titanic, Millvina Dean. "I can't bear to go back there — the ship was my home. Farthing some champagne, though."



PHOTOGRAPH: JUDA NGWENYA

## James Lewis

But the once-acquiescent backbenchers, many of these new MPs, were startled to notice. There was surprisingly little protest over a deepening decision earlier in the year to charge university students £1,000 a year for tuition but a cut benefits for single parents.

Cool Britannia, it now appears, will have no doorsteps. Those building the houses of the future must make them accessible to wheelchair-users. A fortune stands to be made by anyone who can invent a simple device to prevent water

Labour overturned a massive

queen and the rest of her family who remained silent in their Scottish holiday hideaway, intending to merge only for the funeral.

But the People were in full cry and were not to be denied. "Show us our care, Ma'am", shrieked the tabloid. So the monarch conceded to the news machine and paraded her unhappy grandsons to the curious gaze of the People in a London walk.

...treatment which Britain has been enormously successful in attracting for the past five years and which has played a big part in bringing down the dollar queues.

## Court's moral message for the Socialists

## EDITORIAL

pete for votes, according to the constitution, the methods they use to finance their activity must necessarily be legitimate, and that they should therefore be punished only if all the parties that have used such methods

ET MOI QUI CROYAIS  
QU'ON ALLAIT  
DÉPÉNALISER LES  
DROGUES DOUCES



There I was, imagining they were going to decriminalise soft drug

And the sentence passed on Emmanuelli, which strips him of the right to hold electoral office

to have based their campaign  
the past six months to more  
and modernise public life.  
(December 18)

## Capital transfer fails to enthuse Kazakhs

### Sophie Shihab in Moscow

Akmola's current population of 300,000 consists chiefly of employed Russian workers, some of them former gulag prisoners (there were many camps in the region who are too poor to return home).

...south, a "medium-sized" jiz a further to the north, and a "small" jiz centred in the oil-rich west. He believed that Nazarbayev's aim in creating his own capital was to create rivalries between the three groups.

It could also be that he was responding to the ancestral urge of a nomad who is ever searching for new pastures.

1

## Mixed signals ferried across the Channel

Denia Hautlin-Gulraut

In France the people with warmest feelings towards B were women (53 per cent), young people (50-54 per cent in the age bracket), shopkeepers, artists, industrialists, managers and teachers, while farmers were more

France's position as the world's fifth-largest economic power (8.1 per cent).

As for the French, 46 per cent approved of English customs ('the monarchy, pubs,' and 32 per cent of Britain's economic prospects).

That indifference was ten-  
by some support for the soci-  
cles pursued by the French  
lets: 55 per cent of Britons b-  
it would be possible to intro-  
duction of the working w-  
35 hours in the UK, and 30 p-  
thought that workers' right

After having dissolved parliament twice, abolished the constitutional court, organised two referendums, brought the media and the opposition to heel, Nazarbayev is likely to be contradicted. No one likes the choice of Akimola, but

Although they grumble about corruption, these firms have more eager to accept that obligation than foreign embassies have to move to the plots of arid desert in the hinterlands of the

John 11:15

The general election's defining moment came when Stephen Twigg for Labour overturned a massive majority in Enfield Southgate to oust Michael Portillo, darling of the Tory right

from Orkney southwards to address the anxieties of these most detached from the European dimension to British life". It promises to be a lively time.

The British chiefly saw French as "educated" (43 per cent), "creative" (19 per cent) and

Very few (10 per cent) paid tribute to Britain's technological achievements.

• better protected in France  
Britain.  
(December 17)

It is rumoured in Almaty that

(December 12)

## Moved to delight by the melody

**Jean-Michel Frodon** reviews **Alain Resnais'** latest film and, below, his actors discuss why they like working with him

I CAN recommend Alain Resnais' 15th feature, *On Connait la Chanson*, as a very effective pick-me-up if you are feeling a bit down. To quote just one hilarious scene, Resnais has an estate agent, played by André Dussollier, imagining himself in republican guard uniform, riding a horse and singing Alain Bashung's *Veriges de l'Anouir* with Bashung's own voice in playback.

Throughout the movie — in which the characters are broken into well-known pop songs by singers ranging from the pre-war *Ouvrier* to Johnny Hallyday, Dalida and Michel Jonasz — Resnais' aim is not to "entertain" in a low-brow sense, but to poke sophisticated fun at the way we all tell ourselves stories in order to make life a little more bearable.

Telling stories without prejudging whether they are "true" or

"false" has been Resnais' job for the past 45 years. With his long experience of how to bring a character, story or imagined event to life, he has acquired an incomparable ear for native virtuosity. It is this extraordinary lightness of touch, rather than his repeated recourse to popular songs, that brings to mind parallels with musical comedy.

Despite its virtuosity and lightness of touch, not everything is sweetness and light in *On Connait la Chanson*. As though to warn the spectator from the start not to adopt too casual an approach to the film, Resnais starts by contrasting Sabine Azema's chirpy voice with an image of a swastika — a tiny moment of reconsideration that takes us on a leap through time and into the realm of fiction.

With a characteristic sense of narrative, which intertwines the stories of seven main characters, each of whom is precisely drawn, interesting, moving and, in their own way, funny, Resnais interprets a screenplay by Agnès Joui and Jean-Pierre Baeli with the same delicate subtlety that he used when working from scenarios by Marguerite Duras (*Hiroshima Mon Amour*),

Alain Robbe-Grillet (*L'Année dernière à Marienbad*), Jean Cayrol (*Muriel*) and Jorge Semprun (*La Guerre Est Finie*). As the film moves from the streets of Paris to lists for sale, interchanging feelings, discourses and images, we sense the importance Resnais attaches to chance, a "force of proposition" that opens on to fictional possibilities.

He once again gives us his thoughts on appearances, whether real or illusory, finding a new angle to the question through his subtle use of popular songs. Not only are the songs immediately appealing to the spectator, but they make it possible to express, more quickly and with greater resonance, such sentiments as "I love you," "Don't leave me" or "I feel lonely and unhappy."

Resnais demonstrates the power and limitations of cliché, the accuracy and superficiality of lyrics, and the ambivalent quality of hackneyed songs which both express and encapsulate our most personal feelings, past, present and future. The great merit of his film is to accept such "vulgarity" on its own terms, without a hint of condescension, while at the same time criticis-



Resnais: narrative virtuosity

ing such an easily consoling and blinding view of human behaviour as when a picture of personal happiness looks like an ad for a chicory beverage. But Resnais is all too aware of the dangers of virtuosity without a conscience. His whole exercise is shot through with an ongoing self-discipline, which makes the film look rather like Montaigne adapted by Vincente Minnelli.

The film's narrative fiction, which never lapses into self-indul-

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

gence, lends a wonderful freedom to the movie. One of a director once admired for his superbly erect camera movements, there is never more evident than in the final sequence, which brings all the characters together in a polygon where the real and the artificial, the internal and the external, and the burlesque and the tragic stop being formal boundaries and become a staid infinite variations on life.

With the apothosis of his closing sequence, Resnais harks back to the finale of *I Want to Go Home*, a film which left one in a state of ease, and which is narrated by Connait la Chanson. The feeling of well-being is generated here by the precision of the script's construction, the communicative clarity of the actors, and the carefully shaded range of shapes, colours and lights.

Behind the film's whirling mass, it is the nature of truth that is called into question — it was Hiroshima and Algeria (*Muriel*) was already a very special kind of musical comedy, or through the eyes of persons of Stendhal, or under the lens of Henri Laborit's psychosomatic microscope in *Mon Oncle d'Amérique*.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

QUARTZ/WEBB, JUNE 1993

## The Washington

### Australians Close Eyes to Openness

Kevin Sullivan in Cabramatta

DANH NGOC PHUNG fled her native Vietnam by boat 20 years ago and eventually found her way to this busy suburb south of Sydney, where she opened a pharmacy and raised six children. Now 65, she is a classic immigrant success story: She owns two pharmacies; two of her children are pharmacists; she is an architect, and three own small businesses. "It's been good for us here," she said.

Far too good for some Australians, who wish she would just go home. Phung and other Asian immigrants are keenly aware that they are in the cross hairs of this country's divisive debate about race relations, immigration and the identity of a multiethnic nation.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

On Connait la Chanson is about telling oneself stories, about the essence of truth and how individuals and society react to it.

growing Chinatown, and outside the United States, Australia has the world's largest community of overseas Vietnamese, about 200,000 people.

Australia's changing makeup has been welcomed by many who see a new richness in the nation's culture, food and lifestyle. But some people feel uneasy watching comfortable old traditions such as country and hot meat pies being replaced by Singha beer from Thailand and Vietnamese pho soup.

It's 10,000 miles from Sydney to London, Australia's former colonial capital, and the distance has never seemed greater. Cultural and personal relations have frayed between Britain and its former colony, as it has vigorously fostered links with its Asian neighbors. About 75 percent of Australia's exports now go to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian nations.

Seeing its changing place in the world, Australia has chosen a decidedly more Asian tack in its economic and foreign policy. In terms of trade and security, Australia now pays closer attention to its 200 million neighbors in Indonesia than to its 3 million English-speaking cousins in New Zealand.

The changes have affected nearly everyone here, from the rising number of scholarships and slots in the universities won by Asian students, to Chinese seeking on the streets of Sydney, to the ornate Italian hardwood furniture that fills store windows.

But for some Australians, an increasingly violent force, the changes seem a direct threat to their security and their children's future.

When asked what a hard

immigrant to like," said Phillip Adams, a prominent columnist and radio talk show host in Sydney.

"They're signing up with Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-chips shop owner, was elected to the federal Parliament in 1996, she said. The ultraconservative Hanson's maiden speech in Parliament was an angry screed against immigration.

"I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians," she said. "They have their own culture and religion, they form ghettos, and they do not assimilate."

Adams, a prominent columnist and radio talk show host in Sydney.

"They're signing up with Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-chips shop owner, was elected to the federal Parliament in 1996, she said. The ultraconservative Hanson's maiden speech in Parliament was an angry screed against immigration.

"I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians," she said. "They have their own culture and religion, they form ghettos, and they do not assimilate."

Adams, a prominent columnist and radio talk show host in Sydney.

"They're signing up with Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-chips shop owner, was elected to the federal Parliament in 1996, she said. The ultraconservative Hanson's maiden speech in Parliament was an angry screed against immigration.

"I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians," she said. "They have their own culture and religion, they form ghettos, and they do not assimilate."

Adams, a prominent columnist and radio talk show host in Sydney.

"They're signing up with Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-chips shop owner, was elected to the federal Parliament in 1996, she said. The ultraconservative Hanson's maiden speech in Parliament was an angry screed against immigration.

"I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians," she said. "They have their own culture and religion, they form ghettos, and they do not assimilate."

Adams, a prominent columnist and radio talk show host in Sydney.

"They're signing up with Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-chips shop owner, was elected to the federal Parliament in 1996, she said. The ultraconservative Hanson's maiden speech in Parliament was an angry screed against immigration.

"I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians," she said. "They have their own culture and religion, they form ghettos, and they do not assimilate."

Adams, a prominent columnist and radio talk show host in Sydney.

"They're signing up with Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-chips shop owner, was elected to the federal Parliament in 1996, she said. The ultraconservative Hanson's maiden speech in Parliament was an angry screed against immigration.

"I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians," she said. "They have their own culture and religion, they form ghettos, and they do not assimilate."

Adams, a prominent columnist and radio talk show host in Sydney.

"They're signing up with Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-ch





















## In Brief

**ROLLS-ROYCE** may have to pay out millions of dollars in compensation to a company believed to be owned by a member of the Saudi Arabian royal family. The deal is connected with the Al-Yamamah arms deal.

**AFTER** 180 years, the name of Hambro & Co is an independent entity was matched out to the beleaguered City of London merchant bank confirmed reports that its core business is being sold to Soci t  G n rale for \$400 million.

**THE** 190 partners at Goldman Sachs are expected to enjoy bonuses of up to \$15 million each as profits at Wall Street's largest partnership topped a record \$3 billion.

**JPMORGAN**, the US securities house, has been fined a record \$850,000 by the Stock Exchange after being found guilty of manipulating the market.

**THE** UK government is to offer tax relief on donations to educational and poverty projects in the world's poorest countries in an effort to ease the crippling debt burden in the developing world, Chancellor Gordon Brown said.

**THE** gap between UK top earners and people at the bottom of the pile narrowed this year for the first time since 1979, according to figures released by the Employment Policy Institute. Meanwhile official figures showed that in September, for the first time outside war conditions, more women had jobs than men.

**MERRILL LYNCH**, the US broking and banking group which trades on the London stock market, predicted that the FTSE 100 would hit record levels in 1998.

**TENS** of thousands of jobs in the European defence industry were secured when Spain, Germany, Italy and Britain signed a \$65 billion deal to boost to build the Eurofighter.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES		Starting rates	Starting rates
		December 29	December 30
Australia	2.5489-2.5543	2.5489-2.5493	2.5489-2.5493
Canada	50.78-50.80	50.78-50.80	50.78-50.80
Denmark	6.80-6.81	6.80-6.81	6.80-6.81
France	11.21-11.23	11.21-11.23	11.21-11.23
Germany	9.55-9.56	9.55-9.56	9.55-9.56
Italy	2.050-2.052	2.050-2.052	2.050-2.052
Japan	12.02-12.03	12.02-12.03	12.02-12.03
Netherlands	1.428-1.429	1.428-1.429	1.428-1.429
Spain	16.50-16.51	16.50-16.51	16.50-16.51
Sweden	3.324-3.326	3.324-3.326	3.324-3.326
Switzerland	2.050-2.052	2.050-2.052	2.050-2.052
USA	1.608-1.609	1.608-1.609	1.608-1.609
ECU	1.4018-1.4020	1.4018-1.4020	1.4018-1.4020

## IMF issues warning on Asian crisis

Mark Atkinson

**THE** International Monetary Fund issued a stark warning this week that the Asian financial crisis could turn into an "unprecedentedly deep, prolonged and self-reinforcing" downturn which could herald a return to protectionism.

It also absolved George Soros — blamed by the Malaysian prime minister, Mahatir Mohamad, for causing the crisis — by saying that speculators had played a "relatively limited" role.

The IMF, taking the highly unusual step of issuing an updated global economic forecast — the last time it did so was after the 1987 stock market crash — predicted that it had vastly underestimated the impact of the crisis when it published its original projection in October.

Instead of western output growing by 4.5 per cent in 1998, it would now expand by only 3.5 per cent, if not lower.

The IMF said: "As the episode moves out of control, there are clearly downside risks, especially in view of the vulnerability of banking systems in some countries and the powerful financial linkages that exist across countries."

"Policymakers will need to respond forcefully to forestall an un-

necessarily deep, prolonged, and self-reinforcing downturn, which might seriously undermine support for an open world financial system and foster protectionist sentiment."

Anxiety is growing that Asian companies will seek to use their devalued currencies to flood the West with cheap goods. Last week the head of Ford's global operations warned that the crisis would undermine efforts to encourage free trade and may lead to political tensions.

The international lending organisation said that Southeast Asia and Korea — where the IMF has been forced to lend nearly \$100 billion in the past few months to help countries stabilise their currencies and pay off short-term debts — would be hit the hardest, followed by Japan, while the United States and Europe would emerge relatively unscathed.

In Britain output is predicted to rise by 2.4 per cent next year, 0.2 percentage points less than in October. However, the IMF said this "cautiously optimistic view" hinged on Asian countries implementing "without undue delay" economic and financial reforms to prevent the crisis spreading to other emerging markets and beyond to advanced economies.

On the emotive issue of speculators such as Mr Soros, the IMF said

they might have determined the timing of the outbreak of turmoil in some countries. But it added that those who profited "did so primarily by correctly perceiving unsustainable and inconsistent economic policies, financial sector fragilities, and overvalued property and stock markets."

"Some speculators, however, appear to have made large losses in some operations. More generally, foreign investors in Asian emerging markets have taken substantial losses."

The IMF said there appeared to have been three key domestic factors that led to the crisis: first, the failure to dampen overheating pressures in Thailand and other countries in the region; second, the maintenance for too long of exchange-rate regimes pegged to the US dollar, which encouraged excessive borrowing in foreign currencies without regard to exchange rate risk and third, lax prudential rules and financial oversight.

"All these factors led to repeated attacks on the Thai baht and then on other currencies in the region."

The IMF said that although the roots of the crisis lay in the countries most affected, developments in advanced countries and global markets had also played their part.

Stock markets around the world took another pounding last week as news of Japan's third-largest bankruptcy sparked fresh waves of selling by already nervous investors.

*Mark Tully in New York and Mark Minter in Tokyo*

The Tokyo stock market tumbled more than 5 per cent and the Nikkei 225 index closed 1481 points down on the day at 5,603.2.

The renewed turbulence in the Far East was triggered by the bankruptcy of food group Toshiba, the ninth publicly quoted Japanese company to fail this year. Its difficulties served as a reminder of the problems facing Japan's corporate sector in the face of a struggling economy. Asia's markets "seemed to be a bit more stable in the last few days, but that was apparently an illusion," said Peter Lindquist, an analyst at HSBC Midland Bank. "This is still likely to create downside pressure for years."

Tokyo was not the only Asian market in trouble. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was down almost 350 points on the day, and the Seoul market lost 5 per cent as concerns that life will be done to tackle South Korea's economic woes had newly elected president, Kim Dae-jung, takes office in February.

Stock markets around the world

## Prudential reprimanded for management failures

Teresa Hunter

**THE** reputation of the Prudential, one of Britain's biggest financial institutions, was severely damaged after it received the most scathing public rebuke ever delivered by a City watchdog last week.

The \$185 billion Prudential Corporation was reprimanded for being a "business out of control", with deep-seated and long-standing management failures, in the first disciplinary action to be taken by the UK's new Financial Services Authority.

This humiliating rebuke is a serious setback to an institution which owns 4 per cent of British industry and which earlier this year engaged in talks over a takeover of the NatWest Bank and the Woolwich. It bought a highly regarded life and pensions company, Scottish Amicable, in September after a battle with the Abbey National.

The embarrassment is compounded by its high-profile, \$30 million, television advertising campaign portraying the "Man from Pru", chief executive Sir Peter Davis, as a friendly, trustworthy uncle.

Sir Peter, who last year earned more than \$1 million, promised viewers he was "dedicated to bringing the best possible returns from the safest possible investments and pledged to 'keep your dreams alive'."

But it emerged last week that thousands of customers have been sold the wrong policies because of misadventures by the company's 5,500 sales force. The worst of the errors related to the sale of its core insurance policy, the Prudential Savings Account, which the company now accepts was unsuitable for many customers.

The FSA, which is headed by former Bank of England deputy-governor Howard Davies, was set up by a Labour government determined to

stamp out the malaise at many of the nation's best-known financial institutions. It lambasted the Pru for a deep-seated and long-standing failure in management, which prevented it recognising its shortcomings and taking action to address them.

Q: A cultural disposition against acting by consumer protection laws; Q: failing to remedy shortcomings pointed out by previous watchdogs; Q: selling unsuitable products; Q: failing to put investors' interests before those of the company; Q: failing to establish and maintain adequate controls.

Mr Davies said: "We are satisfied that the Prudential's conduct has fallen substantially below the standards that the public has a right to expect from a regulated firm."

The problems came to light during an inspection by regulators in 1995, at a time when Sir Peter's predecessor, Mick Newnham, boasted on a number of occasions that the Pru had never "mis-sold" a policy. It subsequently admitted to more than 70,000 potential cases of pensions mis-selling.

In August, it was forced to double to \$750 million the sum set aside for compensating pensions victims. It said last week that further redress would be paid to any of its other 6 million customers who had been sold a wrong policy.

Like its other entry to the small car market, its A-Class, a micro car flipped over during the Swedish "moose test" designed to ensure a car's manoeuvrability in severe conditions — such as swerving to avoid a moose or skidding on a frozen road.

The delayed launch of the 2.5-metre wide, 1.45-metre wide two-seater Smart, a rival to Ford's Ka and Rover's Mini, has since been pushed to the profit and sales expectations of



Not so smart... the Smart car on show in Zurich. PHOTO: MARTIN REUTHER

## Moose upsets Merc again

**MERCEDES**, once a byword for German quality engineering, suffered renewed ignominy and ridicule last week when a second new car failed the infamous moose test, writes David Giff.

The car firm admitted it had been forced to delay the launch of its revolutionary Smart car, being developed with Swiss watch-maker Swatch, by six months until next October.

Like its other entry to the small car market, its A-Class, a micro car flipped over during the Swedish "moose test" designed to ensure a car's manoeuvrability in severe conditions — such as swerving to avoid a moose or skidding on a frozen road.

The delayed launch of the 2.5-metre wide, 1.45-metre wide two-seater Smart, a rival to Ford's Ka and Rover's Mini, has since been pushed to the profit and sales expectations of

Daimler-Benz, Mercedes's parent. The group's shares suffered accordingly in Frankfurt.

It is yet another dent in the reputation for top-class engineering and reliability nurtured over decades by the firm.

Last week's crisis led to the removal of Johann Temfords as head of the Smart research and development team. He is to take up "other duties" as interim Compact Car (MCC), the joint venture between Daimler, which owns 81 per cent, and Swatch-maker SMH, which owns the remaining 19 per cent.

Nicolas Heyer, SMH chairman, said: "We will make it somewhat wider."

Mercedes was also forced to widen the wheel-base of its A-Class and fit electronic stabilisers as standard parts to try to win back confidence after

FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

LTS International Ltd is a consultancy and project management company specialising in forest sector development. We have three main areas of focus: community forestry, production forestry and conservation. We are committed to providing high quality consultancy inputs which contribute to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the world's forests. Our clients include multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, development banks, private companies and national governments. We operate mainly in Eastern Europe, FSU, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Indian Sub-Continent and South East Asia.

We are now seeking consultants for two long term projects in the forest sector in South East Asia. We are looking for consultants with a minimum of 10 years professional experience, including work on development projects, in the fields of natural forest management, forest economics, remote sensing, GIS/MIS, fire protection, rural development, forest training and EC project administration.

To meet anticipated demand with public and private sector clients in 1998 we also wish to hear from consultants with experience in the specialisations above and from those with skills in environmental impact assessment, forest certification, protected area planning and management, watershed management, land use planning and project management.

If interested in long or short term assignments, please send your CV to:

James Aitken, LTS International Ltd, Penlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Nr Edinburgh, EH26 0PH, UK. Tel: +44 131 440 5500. Fax: +44 131 440 5501. Email: jima@ltsi.demon.co.uk

MA IN APPLIED  
LINGUISTICS & TEL

School of Languages &amp; Area Studies

Starting towards the end of September

Full-time one semester programme

Part-time 18 months (including

Further Degree and application forms

Address: Tutors, MA in Applied

Linguistics &amp; TEL,

School of Languages &amp; Area Studies,

University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth,

Hampshire PO1 2EX.

Telephone: (01705) 344111

Fax: (01705) 344040

E-mail: a.linguistics@port.ac.uk

A degree of excellence

for University teaching

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

in research

## TEFL COURSES

TEACH ENGLISH WORLDWIDE

Tightly College Certificate (4-week full-time) for those with

no experience of teaching English. Tightly College Diploma

(distance-learning) for experienced teachers.

Also, courses of English for foreign students.

For more details, please

UK +44 171 734 3889, fax 734 2623.

e-mail: info@teachworld.co.uk

OXFORD HOUSE COLLEGE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

LONDON, 5, OXFORD STREET W1E 6HE

## Could you manage an MBA?

The University of Ulster is one of the UK's largest and most popular universities, with over 20,000 students from 48 different countries studying with us. We offer more than 300 internationally recognised Diplomas, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral programmes.

The Ulster Business School, one of the eight faculties of the University, offers a high quality MBA programme which will:

- Develop your knowledge of modern management theory and practice
- Enhance your career opportunities.

**Benefits of the Ulster MBA include:**

- International focus incorporating a residential in Belgium (Irish Institute at Leuven) and an optional 2 week Summer School in San Francisco.

- A choice of options offered in addition to core modules, allowing you the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest to you in more depth, e.g. Financial Topics, Enterprise, International Marketing, Strategic Management.

- Flexible mode of study

1 year full-time commencing September 1997 or 3 years part-time commencing October 1997.

- Taught by a large faculty with wide teaching and research interests.

For more details, please contact:

Professor S. Parkinson, Ulster Business School, University of Ulster, Shore Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT37 0QB, Northern Ireland.

Overseas enquiries should be made to:

Tel: +44 (0) 1232 340007

Fax: +44 (0) 1232 340013

E-Mail: S.Parkinson@ulster.ac.uk

Advancing Knowledge through Teaching, Learning and Research

PLANNING THE NEW YEAR?  
What sort of person are YOU?

- I think I probably would enjoy writing.
- I'm sure I could write if I had time.
- I'll try and write something next year.
- Next year I'm going to be published!

For a free prospectus contact:

LONDON SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM  
GW, 22 Upbrook Mews, London W2 3HG

0207 734 3889 Fax: +44 171 705 3780

(If you don't try you won't succeed)

## CLASSIFIED

## CAR HIRE

## PAYLESS

AT THE EXCELSION HOTEL HEATHROW

FOR THE FORTRESS GATWICK

MOTORWAY

GROUP

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

## CAR HIRE

## PAYLESS

AT THE EXCELSION HOTEL HEATHROW

FOR THE FORTRESS GATWICK

MOTORWAY

GROUP

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

HIRE

Buried deep in the Internet is information you want. **Jack Schofield** on how search engines are designed to help you find it.

## The new seekers

**T**HE world of Internet search engines is changing fast. Instead of merely being like airports or railway stations, dispatching surfers to various parts of the Internet, search sites such as Yahoo! and Excite want to become destinations, like America Online (AOL) and the Microsoft Network (MSN). And that's not just because indexing the Internet is increasingly becoming a hopeless task.

"Search engines are immensely useful in the chaos of the Internet, but at the end of the day, what these guys want is to increase the number of eyeballs that linger on their site," says Don DePalma, an analyst at US-based Forrester Research, "because the only way to make money at the moment is by selling advertising impressions."

In fact, two of the leading search engine sites now reject the label. Iain Osborne, marketing director of Yahoo!'s European operation, says: "I don't like being called a search engine. We're not a search engine, and we never have been a search engine—we're an Internet media company."

While it's possible to dismiss Osborne's complaint as semantics—Yahoo! is a hierarchical directory of Web sites created by human beings rather than an index compiled by software robots called "crawlers" or "spiders," like Alta Vista—he is making a serious point. Yahoo! is just as much a "media property" as any TV Times magazine, except that it's not published on paper. And it's a valuable property, serving more than a billion pages a month, and pulling in \$24 million in advertising in the first half of this year.

Yahoo!'s basic approach to categorizing Web sites hasn't changed since it started in a trailer at Stanford University, California, as Jerry's Guide to the World Wide Web. The company's co-founders, postgraduate students David Filo and Jerry Yang, pooled their hobbies of favorite sites and started dividing them into directories when the volume became unmanageable. Excite—which was also formed by former students from Stanford University—has arrived at the same point from the opposite direction.

It was founded in a garage in Cupertino, California, in 1993 as Architect Software, and its clever idea was to create a search engine that could create abstracts and do sub-ject-grouping automatically. Architect changed its name to Excite Inc when it launched its search site in



ILLUSTRATION: BILL BUTCHER

October 1995, and Excite stopped calling itself a search engine earlier this year. Yahoo! has generally led the way. It topped being just another directory when it introduced a Reuters news feed late in 1994. It continued to diversify by adding weather information and share price quotations, and more recently it has gone into online shopping via a deal with Vias, the credit card company. Users can personalise the system to their own needs with My Yahoo!

In October, Yahoo! responded to Excite's free e-mail service by buying Four11, known for its "white pages" directory and RocketMail free e-mail—for shares worth \$92 million. As a result, it now offers most of the things people want, search from free Web pages.

Excite offers similar facilities, including an online chat service, a bulletin board and free e-mail. Like Yahoo! it has localised versions for different countries, and can be personalised via My Excite. Earlier this year, it reorganised its directory

listings into a series of "channells" covering different subject areas such as business and sport. Last month, to counter Yahoo!'s move into commerce, it bought NetBot for its shopping utility, Jango, and launched a Business and Investing Channel with the backing of Intuit, which sells Quicken finance software.

Lyco—one of the oldest search engines—is now trying to catch up fast. It introduced more powerful Lycos Pro search software in September, and has since added its own publication, called Web Guides, along with chat facilities, free e-mail, and customised news.

But not all the leading search engines have taken this route. Infoseek has decided to "stick to its knitting," according to Paul Zwillenberg, managing director of Associated Newspapers Innovations, which runs Infoseek UK. So has Infoseek UK, which is owned by US-based computer manufacturer Digital Equipment Corporation, and Intink, a spin-off from research at

the University of California's Berkeley campus funded by America's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). Intink created the popular HotBot search engine on Wired's HotWired site, Microsoft is now licensing the technology to Lycos, and launched a Business and Investing Channel with the backing of Intuit, which sells Quicken finance software.

It's a useful reminder that other types of sites are converging on the same strategy as Yahoo!, Excite and Lycos. HotWired, for example, started as a spin-off from a trendy print publication, and AOL is an online service for Lycos. They have different demographics, but both want to provide a home from home for Internet users, grab their eyeballs and sell them to advertisers.

This convergence means AOL is now competing with Excite, "even though we own a piece of them," according to Jonathan Bulkeley, the managing director of AOL UK. "They're moving up the food chain," he says, "and we're moving down the food chain."

Calista Consulting's Danny Sullivan

van, creator of the highly regarded Search Engine Watch, is a cautious about the trend for search engines to turn themselves into amusement parks. "I don't know that's what people want," he says, "it still seems to me that people want to search the Internet. Look at Alta Vista: it only really offers searching and it doesn't do much advertising, but its popularity keeps growing a word at a time."

Worse, Sullivan suspects that the major search engines are not keeping pace with the growth of the Web, or with changes in technology that make the Web harder to search. Sullivan points out that search engines typically index a million Web pages, which is reasonable when the Web had 100 million pages (no one knows the real figure), but it's a diminishing proportion of a Web that's heading to half a billion pages. "There's a danger of 'Well, we can't index everything,'" he says. "The chances are you'll still find what you're looking for, but the real value of search engines is that they bring to the surface things you wouldn't otherwise find."

But many search engines seem to complain that they get "too much hits," and few can be bothered to improve their search techniques to get better results. The trend is therefore towards trying to limit the number of sites to the better quality ones, even if that means picking them by hand.

Zwillenberg says Infoseek UK is "trying to bridge the gap" by approaching by having a big search engine combined with human editors who review sites for their "relevance" and quality to British users. This also enables Infoseek UK to take a "family-friendly" approach: we don't take adult advertising, and we try only to list family-friendly sites, he says.

The problem of selection is not for Yahoo! alone. It has a near monopoly of the hierarchical directory search market as Robert says in his book, *Architects of the Web*, "Yahoo! is like the sole table of contents in a book with many indexes." Companies that are left out or mis-filed can be bitter about the real or imagined loss of business that rejection entails.

"For business users, I think we're going to have to come up with something more personal and user-specific," Yang says. "There probably will be some level of express service that may involve fees, but this is just purely competitive. It's something we have to think about."

However, for consumers, Yang reckons the real challenge is creating a user experience that makes people feel comfortable on the Internet. "And that's easier said than done," he says.

GUARDIAN WEEKLY  
December 26 1997

GUARDIAN WEEKLY  
December 26 1997



Value suffering puppies rescued by the RSPCA from Welsh puppy farms where conditions were described as appalling

## The puppy farms that breed misery

BY CAROL

**H**UNCHED inside a British dog shop, a tiny grey-eyed puppy looks the embodiment of business and innocence. He is neither of these things. Reared six weeks and watch us he is born in a converted cowshed in Wales teeming with dozens of disorienting, yelping newborn dogs, all entering the same multi-million pound industry of the puppy farms.

Factories would be a better word for the puppies are products, bought and sold for profit, exported and made to order.

Credit card in hand, you can phone your nearest dog-and-dog dealer, express your preference and wait for delivery, just like pizza.

You may not get what you pay for. Pneumonia, pleurisy, diarrhoea, worms, vomiting blood, skeletal deformations and huge vet's bills are not part of the deal but can come mixed in the price.

Disaffected customers have the option of returning their purchases and seeking a refund, but those who try usually fall when they see the

conditions to which the puppy is returning. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, breeding farms are often cramped, dirty, dark and life with sickness. Hereditary diseases are passed on by exhausted breeders which, like buty beans, are mated as often as possible, producing two or even three pups a year. Some are held down by pincers to be forcibly mated.

Earlier this month Mike Hall, Labour MP for Weaver Vale, published a private member's bill to shut illegal puppy farms and improve welfare standards of registered commercial breeders. Mr Hall's Breeding and Sale of Dogs Bill would also outlaw the sale of puppies to pet shops and unscrupulous dealers.

Like the anti-hunting issue, Labour promised such a measure if it was elected, and like the anti-hunting bill, the Breeding and Sale of Dogs Bill is likely to fall because the Government will not give it parliamentary time.

So it is business as usual this Christmas and indefinitely for the hundreds — no one knows how many — of puppy farms dotted all

over Britain. Under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1953 and 1991 farms with two or more breeding bitches are supposed to obtain a licence from the local authority. Many do not.

Nor does the licence guarantee good care since the poorly supervised conditions in which the animals live, says A J M Robson, a vet who has inspected dozens of licensed and unlicensed breeders.

Typically, puppy farms are reported to have been the brainchild of the Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare groups say that in "poor" government subsidies urged Welsh dairy farmers to breed dogs as a way of supplementing income hurt by dwindling milk quotas. The department was unable to confirm or deny the allegation.

True or not, the industry is now clustered in south and west Wales and provides the main source of income for many farmers turned breeders.

Prices in London pet shops range from £275 for a King Charles spaniel to £350 for a Staffordshire bull terrier, buyers in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan, where increasing numbers of puppies are flown, will pay more than £1,000.

Even allowing for privately bred pets, dog ownership is an industry, estimated the average price of a pedigree puppy to be £250, worth upwards of £500 million.

Little if any of that money is used to improve the conditions in which the animals live, says A J M Robson, a vet who has inspected dozens of licensed and unlicensed breeders.

Typically, puppy farms are reported to have been the brainchild of the Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare groups say that in "poor" government subsidies urged Welsh dairy farmers to breed dogs as a way of supplementing income hurt by dwindling milk quotas. The department was unable to confirm or deny the allegation.

True or not, the industry is now clustered in south and west Wales and provides the main source of income for many farmers turned breeders.

Prices in London pet shops range from £275 for a King Charles spaniel to £350 for a Staffordshire bull terrier, buyers in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan, where increasing numbers of puppies are flown, will pay more than £1,000.

## A Country Diary

A K HELLUM

**SHERWOOD PARK, Alberta:** Striving to see the first shades of grey upon the eastern sky, I noticed how silent it was. Normally, the chickadees and redpolls hover busily around our feeders just outside the window, eager to devour their store of sunflower and niger seeds. But not today.

As dawn developed into day, I could make out the small birds flitting about in the shrubbery some distance away. Then I saw the boy Newthorn Snow White owl, sitting on the rope line to one of the feeders, dozing.

The temperature remained in the inopportune -30C as morning wore on, and the small birds became more aggressive, some of them flying around the small spruce tree to which the owl had moved. The small birds were very restless, flitting about, but too timid to feed because of the presence of their larger relative. But the owl appeared to be immune of the feverish activity.

Then suddenly the owl opened its eyes wide, stared northwards towards the snow-covered ground and flew off. I craned my neck to see what it was doing. It had caught a mouse feeding on dropped seeds and then proceeded to fly back to its perch in the spruce tree. There it commenced to eat its breakfast.

During the next couple of days, the owl continued its dawn visitations. Interestingly, it appeared, on catching more rodents. The small birds did not seem to be deterred by its presence. It is said to feed on over 100 different types of prey.

Meanwhile the silence grew deeper as each day dawned. By the third morning the redpolls had all but disappeared, probably having moved to other feeding areas, but the chickadees were bolder. The finches and the downies remained skittish.

On cold winter mornings now, when the hush is so all you can hear your own breathing, I stop and wonder how little I really know of what goes on out there.

Letter from Northern Territory John Marston

## Aboriginal rites of passage

**A**LONG with the dust storms that roll into Papua from the western desert of Australia during the summer months come an assorted collection of vehicles. These vehicles range from the wheeled wheel drive models to the unadorned broken-down remnants of 1970s saloons. The people, cars and trucks come from all over central Australia and represent groups of Aboriginal communities. The relationship between the groups are complex: some are related by blood, several by language, and some through a kinship system which takes years to begin to understand.

In a scene reminiscent of a photograph I had once seen of French Gypsies setting up camp, a scattered collection of corrugated iron and large squares of plastic were soon gathered and made into a camp. Babies and old people dis-

gorged from the vehicles into these shelters, along with essential supplies of food and water needed to sustain everyone over the uncertain time ahead.

Although I have witnessed several of these mass influxes that seem to appear overnight in Aboriginal communities, I am still in awe of the effort and organisation that lies behind these movements of people over hundreds of miles, for some, thousands of kilometres of hostile desert.

The force that lies behind these feats of endurance stems from the ancient tradition of initiation ceremonies for the young men of the Aboriginal communities in central Australia. The energy behind this mass translocation derives its nature from the deep need of central Australian Aborigines to give the sacred laws of their creation to the present generation of men.

Living in Papua is a useful and at times provocative contrast to the beliefs and value systems that I grew up with in 1960s New Zealand. A few broken-down houses and the skeletal remains of 20th century technology that lie discarded around this community impress on one that the materialistic culture of Australia has only a fleeting interest for many Aboriginal people. Their link with this land extends back many thousands of years, long before Europeans started to collect things and claim ownership.

In Aboriginal society individual ownership has never taken hold as an idea because, traditionally, nobody really owns anything apart from their own dreams. The term "ownership" is now used by various Aboriginal groups when negotiating with the government over land rights, but it is in my experience that they use the word in a way that

is strange to them but conveys the strength of their feelings in the only terms that non-Aboriginals understand. A more correct English translation to describe the feeling many Aboriginal people have for their country would be "protection" and "guardianship".

The process of male initiation that occurs in a sacred place in the bush is a secret one. And it is to be respected as such. The symbolism behind the physical alteration of the boys' anatomy is now better understood. The boys are separated from their female careers and, like some other traditional groups around the world, go through a ritual death. The process is apparently terrifying (according to my friend Jampijinpa), but the boys are supported through their ordeal by a ceremonial "brother". During the rituals that re-enact the verbal teachings of their origins (frequently referred to as "dreaming"), blood is split and the symbolism of unity with the earth is powerfully demonstrated.

During the weeks spent in the bush, the boys begin the lifelong process of learning the laws that

govern their life, the stories of creation, the penalties for disturbing the ancestors, and the rites for the continued fertility of the land and its people.

The boys are what they call "getting men". The young men emerge from the bush camp transformed in the eyes of their family and the community. In effect they have been reborn as holders of the sacred laws of their ancestors. The men who last week were just boys must now behave in a responsible way towards their relations.

The ceremonial elders who guard over the traditional law in central Australia have come and gone. The initiation of the boys was carried out on Christmas Day during a raging dust storm. The paradox of such an event taking place on December 25 did not escape me. A 2,000-year-old celebration of the birth of one child was perhaps echoed here in the bush by the spiritual rebirth of a new generation of Aboriginal men. These youngsters are now guardians of spiritual law that has safeguarded their ancestors in a hostile environment.

## Search me

**AltaVista**  
www.altavista.digital.com/  
Launched: December 1995  
Spiders: Scooter  
It tends to produce many obscure references, especially on the Internet, but the Alta Vista search feature may make things easier.

**Excite**  
www.excite.com/  
Launched: October 1995  
Spiders: Scooter  
Although it has a large database of references, Excite's search feature may make things easier.

**HotBot**  
www.hotbot.com/  
Launched: May 1996  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.

**Infoseek**  
www.infoseek.com/  
Launched: February 1995  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.

**Lyco**  
www.lyco.com/  
Launched: April 1996  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.

**MSN**  
www.msn.com/  
Launched: August 1996  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.

**Search.nl**  
www.search.nl/  
Launched: August 1996  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.

**Vindex**  
www.vindex.com/  
Launched: August 1996  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.

**WebCrawler**  
www.webcrawler.com/  
Launched: August 1996  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.

**WebIndex**  
www.webindex.com/  
Launched: August 1996  
Spiders: Slurp, the Web Hound  
It is a fast, efficient, and the Web Hound spider is well known for its ability to dig complicated Boolean searches. But the spider's accuracy sometimes seems to be designed for people seeking Playboy.









